

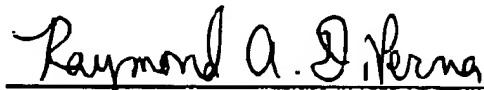
REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-20, 23-28, 31-39, 42-47 and 50-69 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 9, 20, 28, 39 and 47 are the independent claims. It is proposed to amend Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 28, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 47, 51, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 63, 67 and, 68 to correct grammatical and typographical errors; these changes are for the purposes of clarification only, and no change in scope is either intended or believed to be effected by these changes. It is noted that in a telephone conference the undersigned attorney had with the Examiner on December 14, 2005, the changes to Claims 9, 15, 28, and 34, set forth herein, were agreed to.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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